United Nations ECE/CES/2015/17

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2015

English only

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Sixty-third plenary session
Geneva, 15–17 June 2015
Item 8 of the provisional agenda
Selection of topics for seminars to take place during the 2016 CES plenary session

Selection of topics for the seminars to be held during the 2016 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In May 2015, UNECE carried out an electronic consultation with the members of the Conference of European Statisticians on the possible topics for the seminars to be held during the 2016 plenary session of the Conference. The list of topics sent for consultation is provided as Annex I. The list has been regularly updated, based on the proposals from countries and recommendations by the Bureau. The list of seminars held since 2009 is provided as Annex II.

A total of 42 countries and international organisations replied to the consultation. They were invited to select topics for seminars and indicate whether their office would be willing to organise a seminar/session and/or prepare a paper on a specific topic.

The present note provides a summary of the replies received. Based on the outcome, the Bureau will make a proposal to the Conference for a decision on the 2016 seminar topics to be taken on 17 June 2015 under agenda item 8.

GE.15-10971 (E)

1510971

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. This year 41 countries or international organisations sent their proposals for topics to be discussed at the seminars of the 2016 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). The following countries and international organizations (IOs) replied to the electronic consultation: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France. Germany, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Eurasian Economic Commission, Eurostat, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

2. The results of the consultation are presented below. The countries and organizations that offered to organize a seminar/session or to present a paper are listed under each topic.

II. Results of the survey: preferences

Topic (F) Strategic partnerships

3. The topic received the highest number of preferences: 25 votes (24 from countries and 1 from an IO).

4. Contributions offered on this topic:

Seminar/Session organizers: Canada, Mexico, Russian Federation (possibly), United States

Papers: Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, United States

5. **Comments made:**

The United States paper might focus on how statistical offices create environments to encourage third parties to add value to statistical products, as well as taking stock of these partnerships.

Topic (G) Geospatial information services based on official statistics

6. The topic received 16 votes from countries.

7. Contributions offered on this topic:

Session organizer: Slovenia, Sweden (possibly)

Papers: Denmark, Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden

8. **Comments made:**

Netherlands commented that this is a hot topic that attracts much national and international attention. This work is done with partners and often big data has a geographic component.

Topic (E) Sustainable development goals, Vol.2: how to implement the SDG monitoring system

9. The topic received 15 votes (13 from countries and 2 from IOs).

10. Contributions offered on this topic:

Session organizers: Russian Federation (possibly), IMF (possibly)

Papers: Azerbaijan, Denmark, Netherlands, Russian Federation, United States, IMF (possibly), UNESCO

11. **Comments made:**

The United States paper might focus on coordination of SDG monitoring at national level, partnerships with other data producers, and how to address sample size concerns when disaggregating data for SDG monitoring.

UNESCO could provide a paper from the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and other targets related to education and training based on the recommendations and follow-up proposals to be presented at the World Education Forum in 2015.

Topic (D) Measuring global and transboundary issues in official statistics

12. The topic received 12 votes (10 from countries and 2 from IOs).

13. Contributions offered on this topic:

Session organizers: Israel, Mexico

Papers: Israel, Netherlands

Topic (A) Measuring Governance

14. The topic received 8 votes (7 from countries and 1 from an IO).

15. Contributions offered on this topic:

Seaminar/Session organizer: Mexico, OECD (possibly)

Papers: Hungary, OECD

Topic (C) Gender statistics in light of Beijing +20

16. The topic received 8 votes (6 from countries and 2 from IOs).

17. Contributions offered on this topic:

Papers: Lithuania, Netherlands, UNESCO

18. **Comments made:**

UNESCO could contribute a paper based on the project "Improved Measurement of Gender Equality in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" that the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) is currently running with the financial support of the Swedish Government.

Topic (B) Climate change-related statistics

19. The topic received 3 votes from countries.

20. Contributions offered on this topic:

Seminar/Session organizer: Mexico, the UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change Related Statistics

Papers: Netherlands, Canada

21. **Comments made:**

Netherlands takes part in the UNECE Steering Group on Climate Change-Related Statistics and in the UNECE Task Force to establish indicators also based on the System of

Environmental-Economic Accounts. On 2-3 September 2015, an expert forum will be held in Geneva. This will be repeated in the autumn of 2016 and / or the fall of 2017. To dedicate a seminar on the topic as part of CES might be a welcome addition.

III. Conclusions

22. The CES Bureau will discuss the results of the electronic consultation and will present a proposal to the Conference on the 2016 seminar topics. The Conference will decide about the topics on 17 June 2015 under agenda item 8.

Annex I

List of possible topics for the seminar at the 2016 CES plenary session

The following list of possible topics for the seminar at the 2016 CES plenary session was circulated to countries and international organizations for consultation:

A. Measuring governance;

B. Climate change-related statistics;

C. Gender statistics in light of Beijing+20;

D. Measuring global and transboundary issues in official statistics;

E. Sustainable Development Goals, Vol.2: how to implement the SDG monitoring system;

F. Strategic partnerships in producing official statistics;

G. Geospatial information services based on official statistics.

Annex II

Seminars of the Conference of European Statisticians held since 2009

2009 1. Balancing principles of professional autonomy and accountability with the mandate to produce policy relevant data

2. Strategic issues in business statistics

2010 1. Spatial statistics

2. Impact of global crises on statistical systems

2011 1. Organization of data collection and sharing, and the management challenges for the implementation of SDMX

2. Measuring human capital

2012 1. Implementing the fundamental principles of official statistics, including issues related to coordination of national statistical systems

2. Challenges for future population and housing censuses (based on lessons learned from the last round)

2013 1. Challenges in implementing the system of environmental-economic accounting (SEEA) and measuring sustainable development in follow up to Rio+ 20

2. Challenges in providing access to micro-data for research purposes

2014 1. What is the value of official statistics and how do we communicate that value?

2. Migration statistics

2015 1. Response by official statistics to the Sustainable Development Goals

2. Modernisation of statistical production and services and managing for efficiency